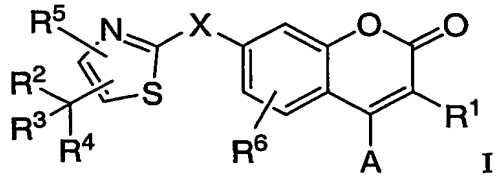
WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A compound of structural Formula I



I

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –C_{1-6} alkyl and –C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -OC_{1-3}alkyl, -F and tetrazolyl, provided that when R^2 is tetrazolyl then neither R^3 nor R^4 is Z;

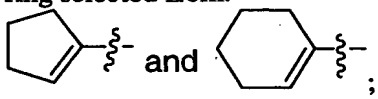
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –CF_3 , -CF_2CF_3, –C_{1-6}alkyl, –C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with fluoro, –C_{1-6}alkyl-R^7, -C_{2-6}alkenyl, -C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, –C_{5-7}cycloalkenyl and –Z;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –CF_3 , -CF_2CF_3, –C_{1-6}alkyl, –C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with fluoro, –C_{1-6}alkyl-R^7, -C_{2-6}alkenyl, -C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, –C_{5-7}cycloalkenyl and –Z;

or R^3 and R^4 are joined together with the carbon to which they are attached to form a ring selected from the group consisting of a –C_{3-6}cycloalkyl ring and a –C_{5-7}cycloalkenyl ring, provided that when R^3 and R^4 are joined together with the carbon to which they are attached to form a –C_{5-7}cycloalkenyl ring, there is no double bond at the C1 position in the ring;

or R^2 and R^3 are joined together to form =C_{1-6}alkyl;

or R^2, R^3 and R^4 are joined together with the carbon to which they are attached to form a cycloalkenyl ring selected from:



;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –C_{1-6} alkyl, –C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and halo;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of –H, –C_{1-6} alkyl, –C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and halo;

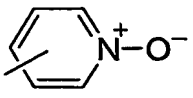
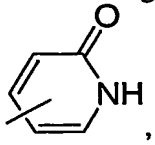
R^7 is selected from the group consisting of –$COOR^1$, -C(O)H, –CN, –CR^1R^1OH, –OR^1, -S-C_{1-6}alkyl and –S- C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

A is selected from the group consisting of

a) a 5-membered aromatic ring containing (i) one or more carbon atoms, (ii) one heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur, and (iii) zero, one, two or three nitrogen atoms,

b) a 5-membered aromatic ring containing one or more carbon atoms and from one to four nitrogen atoms,

c) a 6-membered aromatic ring containing carbon atoms and one, two or three nitrogen atoms;

d) a 6-membered aromatic ring selected from  and  ,

e) a bicyclic aromatic ring system selected from benzothienyl, indolyl, quinolinyl and naphthalenyl;

f) phenyl,

g) $-CH_2-R^8$, wherein R^8 is selected from phenyl and dioxolanyl,

h) $-C_{3-6}$cycloalkyl,

i) $-C_{5-7}$cycloalkenyl,

j) $-C_{1-6}$alkyl; and

k) $-C_{2-6}$alkenyl,

and wherein A is optionally mono- or di-substituted with a substituent independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of (i) halo, (ii) -OH, (iii) $-C_{1-3}$alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halo, (iv) $-OC_{1-3}$alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halo, (v) $-OC_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, (vi) $-CH_2OH$, (vii) $-COOR^1$, (viii) -CN and (ix) $-NR^9R^{10}$;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of –H, $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl and $-C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of –H, $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl and $-COOR^1$;

X is selected from the group consisting of –S–, –SO– and $-SO_2-$; and

Z is selected from the group consisting of

a) a 5-membered aromatic ring containing (i) one or more carbon atoms, (ii) one heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur, and (iii) zero, one, two or three nitrogen atoms,

b) a 5-membered aromatic ring containing one or more carbon atoms and from one to four nitrogen atoms,

c) a 6-membered aromatic ring containing carbon atoms and one, two or three nitrogen atoms;

d) phenyl, and

e) $-CH_2-R^8$, wherein R^8 is selected from phenyl and dioxolanyl,

and wherein Z is optionally mono- or di-substituted with a substituent independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of (i) halo, (ii) -OH, (iii) $-C_{1-3}$alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halo, (iv) $-OC_{1-3}$alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halo, (v) $-OC_{3-6}$cycloalkyl, (vi) $-CH_2OH$, (vii) $-COOR^1$, (viii) -CN and (ix) $-NR^9R^{10}$.

2. The compound of claim 1 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof wherein:

R^1 is selected from –H and –C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of -H, –OH and –F;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of -C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro, -C_{1-6}alkyl-R^7, and -C_{3-6}cycloalkyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of -C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro, -C_{1-6}alkyl-R^7, -C_{2-6}alkenyl, -C_{3-6}cycloalkyl and –Z;

or R^3 and R^4 are joined together with the carbon to which they are attached to form a –C_{3-6}cycloalkyl ring;

R^5 is selected from –H and –CH_3;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of –H and –CH_3;

A is unsubstituted, mono- or di-substituted and is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a 5-membered aromatic ring comprised of carbon, one heteroatom selected from –O– and –S–, and zero, one, two or three of –N–,

b) a 5-membered aromatic ring comprised of carbon and from one to four of –N–,

c) a 6-membered aromatic ring comprised of carbon and one, two or three of –N– and

d) phenyl; and

Z is unsubstituted, mono- or di-substituted and is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, benzyl, pyridinyl, thiazolyl, dioxolanyl and tetrazolyl.

3. The compound of claim 2 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof wherein:

R^3 is selected from –C_{1-2}alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro and cyclopropyl;

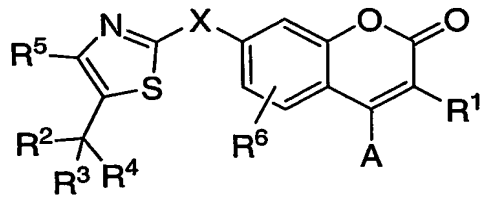
R^4 is selected from –C_{1-2}alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro, cyclopropyl and Z;

A is unsubstituted, mono- or di-substituted and is selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridinyl and phenyl; and

Z is unsubstituted, mono- or di-substituted and is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridinyl and thiazolyl.

4. The compound of claim 3 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof wherein: R^1 is selected from –H and –CH_3; R^2 is selected from –H and –OH; R^3 is selected from -CF_3, -CH_3 and -C_2H_5 and cyclopropyl; R^4 is selected from -CF_3, -CH_3 and -C_2H_5 and cyclopropyl; R^5 is –H; R^6 is –H; and A is selected from phenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-phenyl, unsubstituted or mono-substituted thiazolyl, and unsubstituted or mono-substituted pyridinyl.

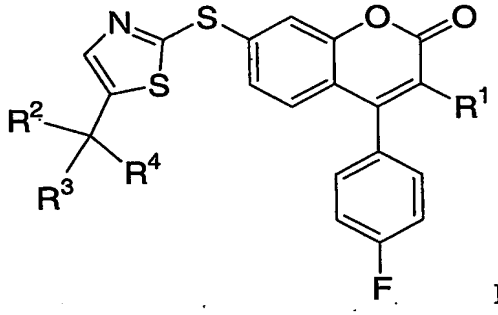
5. The compound of claim 1 of structural Formula Ia:



Ia

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

6. The compound of claim 1 of structural Formula Ib



Ib

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof wherein:
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of –H and $–CH_3$;
R^2 is selected from the group consisting of –H and –OH;
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of $–CF_3$ and $–C_{1-6}$alkyl optionally substituted with fluorine;
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of $–CF_3$ and $–C_{1-6}$alkyl optionally substituted with fluorine;
or R^3 and R^4 are joined together with the carbon to which they are attached to form C_{4-6}cycloalkyl.

7. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-phenyl-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-pyridin-3-yl-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-{[5-(1-hydroxycyclopentyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-2H-chromen-2-one;

4-(2-methyl-1,3-oxazol-4-yl)-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-({5-[1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-7-({5-[2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
(-)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
(+)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1S)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-phenyl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-phenyl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-{[5-(dicyclopropylmethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-{[5-(dicyclopropylmethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(3-methylphenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyrimidin-5-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
(-)-(R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-({5-[1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1R)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-(3-methylphenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
(+)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
(-)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1R)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1S)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

8. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
(-)-(R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-({5-[1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-2H-chromen-2-one;
(+)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
(-)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
4-(4-fluorophenyl)-7-{[5-(1-hydroxycyclopentyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-2H-chromen-2-one;
(-)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
(+)-7-{[5-(1-cyclopropyl-2,2,2-trifluoro-1-hydroxyethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1S)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-phenyl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-phenyl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-{[5-(dicyclopropylmethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]thio}-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1R)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[(1S)-1-hydroxy-1-(trifluoromethyl)propyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
7-({5-[dicyclopropyl(hydroxy)methyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}thio)-4-pyridin-3-yl-2H-chromen-2-one;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A method of preventing the synthesis, the action, or the release of leukotrienes in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the mammal is a human.

12. A method of treating asthma in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

13. A method of treating an inflammatory condition in a mammal which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

14. A method of treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

15. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis, comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient at risk for developing atherosclerosis.

16. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient at risk for having an atherosclerotic disease event.

17. A method for halting or slowing atherosclerotic plaque progression, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

18. A method for effecting regression of atherosclerotic plaque comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

19. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient having atherosclerotic plaque.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprised of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprised of a compound of claim 1, a lipid altering compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. Use of a compound of Formula I, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing the synthesis, the action or the release of leukotrienes.

23. A compound of Formula I, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, for use in preventing the synthesis, the action or the release of leukotrienes.

24. A compound, salt or ester as defined in claim 23 for use in the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of asthma, inflammatory condition, and atherosclerosis.

25. A leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitor composition comprising an acceptable inhibitor amount of a composition of Formula 1, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. Use of an effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 8, for preventing the synthesis, the action, or the release of leukotrienes in a mammal.

27. Use of claim 26, wherein the mammal is a human.

28. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for treating asthma.

29. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for treating an inflammatory condition.

30. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for treating atherosclerosis.

31. Use of a prophylactically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis.

32. Use of a prophylactically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for preventing or reducing the risk of an atherosclerotic disease event.

33. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for altering or slowing atherosclerotic plaque progression.

34. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for effecting regression of atherosclerotic plaque.

35. Use of a prophilactively effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for preventing or reducing the risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture.

36. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for treating asthma.

37. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for treating an inflammatory condition.

38. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for treating atherosclerosis.

39. Use of a prophylactically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis.

40. Use of a prophylactically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for preventing or reducing the risk of an atherosclerotic disease event.

41. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for altering or slowing atherosclerotic plaque progression.

42. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for effecting regression of atherosclerotic plaque.

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43. Use of a prophilactively effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, for the manufacture of a medicament, for preventing or reducing the risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture.